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Letter dated 3 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the detention of Ukrainian journalist Roman Sushchenko (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the detention of Ukrainian journalist Roman Sushchenko

The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protests the arbitrary detention in Moscow of Ukrainian citizen and correspondent of the national information agency "Ukrinform" in France Roman Sushchenko on 30 September 2016 by the Federal Security Service.

We are deeply outraged that the Ukrainian journalist, who had arrived in the Russian Federation to visit relatives, was detained by the Russian authorities on trumped-up charges of "espionage".

We consider this yet another step in the Russian Federation's purposeful policy to use Ukrainians who find themselves in the hands of the Russian authorities as political hostages in its hybrid aggression against our country. The fact that in his professional work and everyday values Roman Sushchenko is a man who defends objectivity and freedom of speech only proves that Moscow is officially waging war not only against Ukraine, but against the entire democratic world, where human rights and freedom are fundamental values.

We demand that the Russian Federation protect the rights of the Ukrainian and immediately allow consular officials access to the detainee in accordance with obligations that Russia has assumed under international law, as well as his immediate return, unharmed and unhindered, to his homeland.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine also appeals to the international community, in particular the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, and all reputable human rights organizations not to ignore the blatant arbitrary nature of the Russian Federation's actions, and to strengthen joint efforts to bring about an early end to Moscow's human rights violations and pressure on independent journalists.